

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adolescent Transitional Independent Living Residence

A facility with staff offices and beds to serve homeless, or nearly homeless youth, 16 to 21 years old, who have no realistic expectation of returning to their home environment. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 8,000 square feet on a site of up to 2 acres and have a 12-bed capacity.

Adopted Fiscal Plan

A plan of financial operations approved by the Board of Supervisors highlighting major changes made to the County Administrator's Proposed Fiscal Plan. The Adopted Fiscal Plan reflects approved tax rates and estimates of revenues, expenditures, and transfers, as well as departmental goals, objectives, and performance/workload indicators. This document is commonly referred to as the Adopted Budget.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance

A vehicle that provides emergency medical response and life support services at the scene of accidents or public safety incidents, or to transport people in need of medical services to regional hospitals for treatment. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Advanced Life Support Ambulance should be provided per 10,000 County residents.

Animal Shelter

A facility for the provision of local public safety services related to animal emergencies. The Shelter includes areas for housing animals, staff offices, dispatch, and pet adoption services. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 18,000 square feet and located on a site of up to 5 acres.

Appropriation

A legal authorization by the Board of Supervisors to a specified organization, such as a unit of the County Government or an affiliated regional organization, to make expenditures and incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is limited in monetary value and the period in which it may be spent, usually expiring at the end of the fiscal year.

Area Plans

Specific detailed land use plans, adopted by the County for various areas.

Biennium

A period of two years. Used by the County to describe the first two consecutive years of funding in the Adopted Capital Improvements Program Budget.

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Board of Supervisors

A nine-member legislative body responsible for the general management of the affairs of the County. Board members are elected by popular vote and are responsible for adopting County policies and ordinances, including the general plan, zoning, and subdivision regulations, imposing taxes, appropriating funds, approving zoning map amendments and special exception applications, and carrying out other responsibilities set forth by the State Code of Virginia.

Budget

A plan of financial operations for a specific fiscal year that identifies the expenditures and revenues necessary to fund County operations. A Board of Supervisors' Appropriation Resolution establishes the County's Annual Budget. The Budget is also referred to as the County's Adopted Fiscal Plan.

Buildable Area

Any vacant land capable of being developed with buildings and/or infrastructure within a larger parcel of land, commensurate with County policies.

By-Right Uses

Uses or structures that are allowed under a particular zoning district classification without the need for a special permit.

Capital Budget

The financing mechanism for the current appropriated year of the six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In Loudoun County, the Capital Budget is included in the Adopted Fiscal Plan.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditures for items of a substantial nature, such as real property, major construction projects, or equipment, generally more than \$500,000, that are expected to have a useful life of five years or longer.

Capital Facilities

Assets and facilities, such as buildings, trucks, parks, trails, parking lots, and shelters, acquired or constructed by Loudoun County or the Loudoun County Public Schools.

Capital Facility Standards (CFS)

A set of standards adopted by the Board of Supervisors to guide the development of new capital facilities. The CFS establishes "triggers" that determine the need for, and initiate the process to plan and develop, new facilities. The triggers use population forecasts, economic forecasts, and demographic trends to identify the number and type of facilities that will provide a desired level of service to the community.

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Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The County's plan for the financing and construction of specific capital facilities over a six-year period, including schools, libraries, and parks. The CIP begins with the current fiscal year and projects future capital costs for an additional five years.

Capital Intensity Factor (CIF)

The cost per housing unit to offset the capital facility impact to the County of a proposed rezoning to an intensity above the current base zoning. The CIF helps determine the future costs to the County of new development and is used in proffer negotiations to determine capital facility contributions. The CIF is derived using the Approved Capital Facility Standards.

Capital Needs Assessment (CNA)

A planning document that identifies the number and type of capital facilities needed to serve the public over a ten-year period. The facility requests are based on department Service Plans, 20-year County growth projections, with consideration of economic and demographic trends, and the County's approved Capital Facility Standards. The planning timeframe is the ten-year period beyond the end of the current, Adopted six-year CIP.

Central Water and Wastewater Systems

The network of major regional facilities, generally operated by a government entity or public utility, that provides for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater and the provision of potable water.

Co-Location

The development of two or more capital facilities at a site. The Revised General Plan encourages the location of multiple County facilities at a single site where feasible and where multiple agencies or services can function effectively in a multi-purpose community facility.

Commission Permit (CMPT)

A permit granted by the Planning Commission and ratified by the Board of Supervisors for a proposed street, connection to an existing street, park, or other public area, public building, public structure, public utility facility, or public service corporation facility other than a railroad facility, whether publicly or privately owned, after review has determined that the location, character, and extent are substantially in accord with the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Communal Water and Wastewater Systems

Water and wastewater treatment systems designed to serve multiple users, such as small-scale developments or clusters and institutions. These systems are public systems when owned and operated by a government entity or utility.

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Community Center

A facility on for the provision of fraternal, cultural, social, educational or recreational programs or activities provided by the County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 10,000 square feet and located on a site of up to 6 acres, with one Community Center provided for every 42,000 residents. Community Center programs can be provided within Recreation Centers, which reduces the need to provide Community Center facilities in Planning Subareas where Recreation Centers are in operation.

Commuter Facilities

Commuter Parking Space

Off-street, ground level area usually surfaced and improved for the daily parking of a commuter vehicle. According to the County's approved Capital Facility Standards, one commuter parking space should be provided per 90 residents. Park-and-Ride Lots are formed when commuter parking spaces are grouped together in strategic locations to serve regional mass transit services, such as Metro Rail and Commuter Bus Service.

Park-and-Ride Lot

An off-street, ground level area usually surfaced and improved for the daily parking of commuter vehicles in strategic locations throughout the County to support regional mass transit services such as Metro Rail and Commuter Bus Service. According to the County's approved Capital Facility Standards, one Park and Ride Lot space should be provided for every 90 residents.

Comprehensive Plan

The general plan for the County and its supporting components, including the Revised General Plan and the Countywide Transportation Plan, prepared and recommended by the Planning Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Each County in Virginia must have a Comprehensive Plan, which defines policies for future development in order to best promote the public health and welfare. Components of the Comprehensive Plan may include local area plans, service plans, and strategic plans, which are developed through the work of citizens, County staff, consultants, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors.

Density

The amount of development permitted per land area. It may be expressed in dwelling units per acre for residential development or as a Floor Area Ratio (FAR), the ratio of a building's square footage to a land area, usually associated with commercial, office, or industrial development.

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Developable land

Vacant land areas outside of protected environmental features capable of being developed with buildings and/or infrastructure. Is also referred to as “buildable area” within a specific parcel for areas remaining after required yards have been provided.

Developmental Services Residential Facility

A facility that provides supervised residential services for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities. According to the County’s approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 3,400 square feet, located on a site of up to 0.5 acres, have a four bed capacity, and include staff office space.

Drop-Off Centers

Recycling Drop-Off Center

A regional facility for residents to drop off recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass. According to the County’s approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 9,550 square feet on a site of up to 0.25 acres. The facility will include a 3,000 square foot concrete pad to accommodate multiple recycling containers and associated customer parking.

Special Waste Drop-Off Center

A regional facility for residents to recycle special waste materials, such as batteries, motor oil, paint, and other toxic materials. According to the County’s approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 10,150 square feet on a site of up to 1 acre. The facility will include a 3,000 square foot concrete pad to accommodate multiple special waste recycling containers, a 600 square foot pavilion, and associated customer parking.

Emergency Homeless Shelter

A facility that provides temporary emergency housing for homeless persons for up to 89 days while assisting them in finding permanent housing options. According to the County’s approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 9,000 square feet, on a site of up to 2 acres, include eight residential apartments to accommodate one family or up to four individuals, and include associated staff office space.

Emergency Response and Fire Fighting Equipment

1500 Gallons Per Minute (gpm) Engine Truck

A vehicle that provides emergency response and fire fighting services throughout the County. According to the County’s approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Engine Truck should be provided per 10,000 County residents.

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Brush Truck

A vehicle that provides emergency fire fighting response services in undeveloped, natural areas of the County. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Brush Truck should be provided per 10,000 County residents. Brush Truck vehicles are typically provided at fire stations in the Rural and Transition Policy Areas, primarily at fire stations west of Route 659.

Heavy Rescue Squad Vehicle

A vehicle that provides emergency response and fire fighting services throughout the County. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Heavy Rescue Squad Vehicle should be provided per 50,000 County residents.

Ladder Truck

A vehicle that provides emergency response and fire fighting services throughout the County. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Ladder Truck should be provided per 25,000 County residents.

Tanker Truck

A vehicle that provides emergency response and fire fighting services to areas that do not have public water and sewer. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one Tanker Truck should be provided per 10,000 County residents at Fire Stations in the western portion of the County.

Fire and Rescue Station

A facility for the provision of local rapid response emergency services, such as firefighting and mobile medical emergency services. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 13,000 square feet, located on a site of up to 5 acres, include areas for the storage and maintenance of emergency vehicles and equipment, and include housing for on-duty emergency personnel. Additional square footage may be added to each Station when career and volunteer staff are partnered at a Station.

Fiscal Impact Committee

A committee of citizen representatives, one member of the Schools staff, and one member of the Board of Supervisors, supported by County staff, that reviews the County's Capital Needs Assessment, Capital Facility Standards, Capital Intensity Factors, 20-year forecasts of development activity and services costs, and annual updates to the County's Demographic, Revenue, and Expenditure Models.

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Fiscal Impact Model

A model used by the County to plan for future population growth. The model projects 20 years into the future, determines the fiscal impact of growth on the County Government, quantifies the need for services, and projects the related expenditures to provide these needed services.

Fiscal Year

The period of time used by the County for budgeting and accounting purposes. The Fiscal Year is twelve months in duration, beginning on July 1st and ending June 30th.

General Fund

The primary account for all financial activity associated with the general operations of County Government. Most taxes are deposited into this fund and transfers are made from it to the School, Debt Service, and Capital Projects funds, as appropriate.

General Government Support Facilities

Any space or facility required for general government services not accounted for under any other approved Capital Facility Standards. Examples of General Government Support facilities include the Adult Detention Center, Courtrooms, general government office space, storage units, warehouse space, and maintenance and repair shops. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, approximately three square feet of general government support space should be provided for each County resident.

Health Clinic

A facility for the provision of local public health services. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 10,000 square feet with 0.5 square feet of health clinic space provided per 28 residents.

Infrastructure

Public facilities, such as water lines, sewer lines, and roads, which form the base on which development can occur.

Joint Land Management Area (JLMA)

The growth area surrounding an incorporated town and served by public water and sewer or projected to be served by public water and sewer in the future. JLMAs are planned cooperatively by the County and the Towns. The boundary of a JLMA marks the edge of utility service and distinguishes between significantly different land uses, thus serving as an urban growth boundary.

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Juvenile Assessment Center

A facility that provides a 24 hour per day and 7 day a week central intake point for the County's youth population, used in conjunction with the County's Juvenile Detention Center. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 4,000 square feet, located on a site of up to 2 acres, and contain three to five detox beds, several interview rooms, and associated staff office space.

Juvenile Detention Center

A facility that provides a secure, residential program for court-ordered juveniles between the ages of 11 and 17 who are awaiting court disposition. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 40,000 square feet and located on a site of up to 6 acres.

Juvenile Probation Residence

A facility that provides a 24 hour per day, community based residential program for up to 12 court-ordered juveniles from ages 14 to 18. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 8,800 square feet and located on a site up to 2 acres.

Library

A facility that provides community library services, including a book collection of 140,000 volumes, a teen area, a children's program space, a reference area, study areas, and community meeting rooms. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 40,000 square feet on a site of up to 7 acres.

Mental Health Residential Facility

A group residence that provides supervised residential services for individuals with serious mental disabilities. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 3,400 square feet on a site of up to 0.25 acres with a five bed capacity, and office space for staff.

Open Space

Any area of land or water essentially unimproved and designated for public enjoyment. According to the Revised General Plan, there are three basic types of open space:

Active Recreation Open Space: Areas dedicated to leisure-time activities, usually of a formal nature and often performed with others, requiring equipment and taking place at prescribed sites or fields. Examples include ballfields, tennis or basketball courts, swimming pools, tot lots, golf courses, skate parks, dog parks, and other areas for recreational sports and activities.

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Natural Open Space: Land left in a mostly undeveloped state. Examples include forests, meadows, hedgerows, and wetlands.

Passive Recreation Open Space: Areas for recreational uses not requiring constructed facilities, but making use of areas which are largely left in their natural state except for basic facilities such as bathrooms, benches, picnic tables, and trails. Examples include trails (hiking, biking, walking, equestrian), and nature observation, picnic, camping, hunting, and fishing areas.

Parks

Community Park

A facility that provides active and passive recreation for a localized area. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each Community Park will be approximately 30 acres and could include two baseball/softball fields, one rectangle field, and passive park space. The Community Park could also contain amenities such as athletic field lighting, parking, public bathrooms, concessions, fencing, utilities, access from a public road, landscaping, irrigation, a playground, bleachers, picnic pavilions, signage, and storage and maintenance facilities.

District Park

A facility that provides active and passive recreation for a large portion of the County. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each District Park will be approximately 75 acres and could include five baseball/softball fields, four rectangle fields, and 45 acres of passive park space. The District Park could also contain amenities such as athletic field lighting, parking, public bathrooms, concessions, fencing, utilities, access from a public road, landscaping, irrigation, a playground, bleachers, picnic pavilions, signage, and storage and maintenance facilities.

Regional Park

A facility that provides active and passive recreation for the entire County. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each Regional Park will be approximately 200 acres and could include nine baseball/softball fields, ten rectangle fields, and 130 acres of passive park space. The Regional Park could also contain amenities such as athletic field lighting, parking, public bathrooms, concessions, fencing, utilities, access from a public road, landscaping, irrigation, a playground, bleachers, picnic pavilions, signage, and storage and maintenance facilities.

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Planning Commission

A nine-member advisory body composed of citizens appointed by the Board of Supervisors that provides recommendations on issues concerning land development ordinances, comprehensive planning, land use policies, and the County's Capital Planning Program. The Planning Commission is empowered by State law to prepare and recommend a Comprehensive Plan and a zoning map for the physical development of the land in the County. The Commission also evaluates proposed land use changes for conformance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in approving or denying the proposed projects.

Planning Subareas

Defined geographical areas established to address service delivery and guide the placement of new capital facilities. Planning Subareas provide a consistent and reliable framework for demographic and capital facility analysis at the sub-County level and are used to forecast County long range demographic trends and needs. Planning Subarea boundaries are not completely coincident with the Policy Areas of the County Comprehensive Plan or the Loudoun County Public Schools Planning Districts.

Policy Areas

Defined geographic areas in the Comprehensive Plan used to guide land use decision-making, to include Suburban, Rural, Transition, and Town Joint Land Management Areas.

Proffer

A voluntary promise or commitment given in writing by a developer to construct certain capital improvements, to make certain monetary contributions, or to dedicate property to the County, subject to specified conditions to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on County Services, and to develop the property in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Public Transportation

Transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides service on a regular and continuing basis to the general public or special needs populations. Also known as "mass transportation," "mass transit," and "transit."

Public Water and Wastewater Systems

Water and wastewater systems, including both central and communal systems, owned or operated by a government entity or public utility.

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Recreational Trails

A natural surface trail with a width of two to five feet that provides walking, hiking, and equestrian recreational opportunities either within County parks or within public use easements outside of County parks. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, one mile of recreational trails should be provided for every 1,000 County residents.

Recreation Center

A facility that provides indoor recreation space to include preschool and daycare programs, multi-purpose meeting rooms, a gymnasium, fitness center, locker rooms, and an aquatic center with a 37.5 x 50 meter lap pool and leisure pool. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 75,000 square feet on a site of up to 15 acres.

Respite Center

A facility that provides a licensed, adult day care program for up to 30 clients with memory loss and/or chronic physical disabilities. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 4,000 square feet on a site of up to 2 acres. Each facility will include a clinic area, an outdoor program area, restrooms equipped with showers, staff office space, a food service area, and storage.

Revised General Plan

The foundation of the County's Comprehensive Plan and an official public document adopted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. It is a long-range guide for growth, land use, and development in the County and outlines a framework for consistent land use decision-making. The Revised General Plan is developed through the work of citizens, County staff, consultants, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors.

Rezoning

A change in the zoning district designation for a parcel or group of parcels approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Schools

Elementary School

A facility that provides educational instruction for 750 to 875 students from kindergarten through fifth grade. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 66,743 to 102,141 square feet on a site of up to 20 acres.

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Middle School

A facility that provides educational instruction for 1,184 to 1,350 students from sixth through eighth grades. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 160,048 to 177,740 square feet on a site of up to 35 acres.

High School

A facility that provides educational instruction for 1,350 to 1,800 students from ninth through twelfth grades. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 227,835 to 279,426 square feet on a site of up to 75 acres.

Senior Center

A facility that provides administrative and program space for County residents aged 55 or older. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 15,000 square feet on a site of up to 5 acres with amenities including a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, a small commercial kitchen, an exercise/fitness room, classrooms, a game room, a computer lab, storage, and restrooms.

Service Plan

A report detailing service delivery strategies and facility needs developed by County Government departments and agencies. Adopted by the Board of Supervisors, these plans serve as planning and resource guidelines for departmental service delivery and establish the number of facilities that the County will build. Service delivery levels and capital facility standards are based on specific demographic standards, such as per capita and per square foot, determined by the Board of Supervisors.

Sheriff Station

A facility that provides local law enforcement public safety services. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 18,000 square feet on a site of up to 5 acres. Stations will include areas for temporary detention of criminals, officer lockers and offices, dispatch, roll call, training, and evidence storage.

Special District

An independent unit of local government organized and authorized to perform a single governmental function or a restricted number of related functions. Special districts usually have the power to incur debt and levy taxes; however, certain types of special districts are entirely dependent upon enterprise earnings and cannot impose taxes. Examples of special districts are water and flood control districts, transit authorities, port authorities, and electric power authorities.

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Teen Center

A facility that provides recreational program space for County residents aged 12 to 18. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 20,000 square feet facility on a site of up to 5 acres. Center amenities will include multi-purpose rooms, an exercise/fitness room, meeting rooms, a multimedia room, a computer lab, a digital arts studio, a kitchen, a snack bar, a game room, restrooms, indoor and outdoor congregating areas, storage, and staff support space.

Transit Bus

A vehicle that provides long haul bus service into Washington, D.C., as well as to specific Metro Rail Stations in Arlington and Falls Church, to assist in alleviating passenger car congestion on regional roads. According to the County's Capital Facility Standards, buses will accommodate 55 passengers and be operated by the County's Office of Transportation Services. One Transit Bus should be provided per 4,950 residents.

Transit Bus Maintenance Facility

A facility that provides operations, storage, and maintenance space for the County's Transit Bus Fleet. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 28,000 square feet on a site of up to 10 acres with program space for employee parking, bus maintenance bays, maintenance support, secure parking for Transit Buses, and administrative offices.

Twenty Year Growth Scenarios and Assessments

A set of demographic and economic projections for the County over a twenty-year period reviewed by the Fiscal Impact Committee.

Youth Shelter

A facility that provides short-term emergency residential services for youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years referred by the Department of Family Services, the Family Assessment and Planning Team of the Comprehensive Services Act, or the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services, when they cannot safely remain in their home. According to the County's approved Capital Facilities Standards, each facility will be approximately 8,000 square feet on a site of up to 2 acres.

Zoning District

A classification of land that designates and controls allowed uses, lot sizes, building setbacks, and other land development criteria.

Zoning Ordinance

A local ordinance that defines and implements land use and design standards such as permitted uses, lot sizes, and setbacks.